

A DAY OF GIFTS.

Christmas is the day of all days when men ought to feel that charity and brotherly kindness which comes from the interchange of gifts. All giving should be done, not out of cussed or formalitv but rather from a concomitant of the joy and pleasure which will arise out of a gift showing appreciation. It is not strange that in these days, the day of a gift, that of one on which there came to this earth a true Christian faith—we should take pleasure in giving joy and gladness to each other.

Many of the roughest hearts meet on this day, let them be what they may at other times. Strong men, if of any soul whatever, enjoy with the children, on their happy day, the pleasures of Christmas giving. He who does not know the pleasure to be derived from giving charitably out of a good heart misses the greatest of human pleasures. He who thinks of himself alone must be a miserable man of cold and selfish heart, and he who gives for the return has in him but little of the true man.

Though the gift be of but little cost, the spirit in the giving of it adds much to its value. Many of us can not give valuable presents, nor need we. Christmas may be in a little gift if it is an expression of an thoughtfulness and true friendliness.

The case of the little cash boy, says the Phila. Record, in New York, who stole a pocketbook as a Christmas gift for his poor mother, whom he thus thought to make happy, has its pitiful side; and it may well be thought that the Recording Angel makes many a tear-blot on such entries. Christmas is, unluckily, a season of temptation as well as of rejoicing. The spirit of Christmas is not aimed for the young and the old. For all old and young, rich and poor alike, it ought to be a season of honesty—a time of thought for the obligations of the coming year—and, therefore, a time for the practice of self-denial.

LITTLE THINGS ON THE FARM.

Though Agricultural reports indicate that our general crops are not being so poor after all as was predicted, prices have as yet not sufficiently advanced to give the farmer fair profits for his labor even though there is a full crop. While the market for the products and commodities have become larger, the farmer's decline has not kept pace with the decline of the staple products of the farm.

Government data shows that the last season a crop yield of 500,000,000 bushels of wheat shows a depreciation of value equivalent to about \$10,000,000; and on a cotton production of 9,000,000 bushels there is an apparent shrinkage, as compared with the price a year ago, of \$20,000,000. But against these losses there are gains of \$165,000,000 on corn and oats, and the gain on barley is a fair offset to the small loss on rye and buckwheat. This gain in corn, due to a good crop, is the one redeeming feature of this year's farming operations. The discovery of the value of wheat as stock food has helped to offset the loss which must otherwise be suffered in producing wheat.

Giving due credit to all mitigating conditions, the producers of the cereals are struggling against adverse conditions.

Many reasons have been given for this condition, all of which must be taken with considerable allowance. Over production is supposed by some to be the main factor. Tariff and protection are said to have much to do with it. Let the reasons be what they may, there is no money in raising wheat on any other of the chief crops on the farm.

It will be observed that the farmer who is getting ahead is watching every detail of his business. Little things are bringing in the money these days. A few cows, a few hogs or a couple dozen of chickens are worth more in actual cash than many of the crops which require immense labor. The two advantages derived from feeding products when they are raised—the obtaining of full feeding value and the return to the land—play a large part in successful farming.

These points—watching little things and good management—will aid greatly in allaying the distress now existing in the business of farming.

This is the season of the year for the farmer to do his thinking and planning. Future work may be anticipated now by making needed preparation and repairs to machinery to fit to whatever may need firing. The little things among these and the general appearance of the farm, should be looked after. In fact the proper care of every minor detail as well as the larger matters will improve the place and help to keep the bank account in good condition.

MONEY IN POLITICS.

We are in receipt of a communication from the Pennsylvania Civil Service Reform Association, in which we are asked to publish an article relating to the subject of corrupt political practices. This article is in line with the many attempts made throughout the country to eliminate money from political affairs which are receiving support from men of prominence. Space does not permit our publishing more than part of it.

The charge is made with increasing frequency of late years that money is becoming a most potent, if not a pre-determining, factor in our politics. We can scarcely pick up a newspaper of either party at election times without reading some item about large campaign contributions, expenditures or assessments.

When such large sums are admittedly expended for offices, the salaries of which are considerably less than the sum spent to secure them, we are forced to one of two conclusions: either the pledges and pickings of the office will more than vindicate the political ambitions of the Dickey Committee.

Dickinson Students Suspended.

Six students were last Tuesday suspended from Dickinson College, Carlisle, for one month for having, a few days before the students entered the school, taken their student, et al, hair and powdered steel over his head. The student made no complaint, but the faculty in some way heard of the hazing and took action in the matter.

FESTIVALS IN AMERICAN COLLEGES FOR WOMEN

"Festivals in American Colleges for Women" is the subject of a symposium to appear in the January "Vivary," describing the special occasions in all the best-known women's colleges. It is interesting to notice that the strong feeling against hazing which is found in each of these articles, college girls seem to have made no effort to make the freshman's lot a happy one.

A suit in equity has been filed at Carlisle on behalf of the borough of Carlisle and the county of Cumberland to determine to whom a reward of \$1,000, offered for the arrest and conviction of murderer Charles A. Saylors, was entitled. The claimants of the reward are Andrew Martin, of Carlisle, H. C. Coburn and J. R. Neesmer, of Winchester, and W. R. Robinson, of Martinsburg, W. Va.

"This success is most encouraging to all who, in this country, are making an

Local and General.

Mrs. ANNE SPANGER, of East Berlin, now recuperating at the Hotel at the John Hopkins Hospital, in Baltimore, is getting along very well and expects to return home between Christmas and New Year.

Mr. JOSEPH WEAVER, of Abbeville, S. C., is lying with a broken limb. His son is suffering from a broken arm in the same house.

The directors of the Cumberland Valley Railroad have voted the usual quarterly dividend of 2 per cent.

JACOB JONES, of McSherrystown, was arrested on complaint of his wife, recently charged with assault and battery.

The Pennsylvania Railroad officials have failed to determine to the value of the trouble caused by a conductor who did not amount to much.

The Massachusetts law is more effective, because it recognizes the existence and activities of political committees and requires sworn statements of them. It fails short in that it cannot reach a national political committee which may be participating in the campaign.

"And it is most encouraging to know that the movements to secure the enactment of corrupt political legislation are

stronger than the efforts to render it ineffective.

From the Eastern Penitentiary, any man who is so crowded to render it necessary either to enlarge it or build a new establishment.

FRANK S. BUSBY, of McSherrystown, a foreman on the Frederick Division, P. R. R., received another prize of \$100 in gold, the best and largest.

A distasteful convention of the American Mechanic of Dauphin, York, Perry, Columbia, Adams and Franklin counties will be held in Harrisburg on the 13th of January.

Wm. W. A. MURRAY is making preparations to build a new house in Bigerville.

Several independent committees in Philadelphia have already taken the first step, and published detailed statements of their expenditures and receipts, hoping thereby to establish a precedent which the political committee of the regular parties would follow.

STOP THE VANDALISM AT GETTYSBURG.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Encampment No. 2, of the Union Veterans Legion, has forwarded to Congress a set of resolutions calling attention to the repeated acts of gross vandalism which have been committed at Gettysburg and demanding that the government assure that territory embossed in the battlefield, make of it a national park and establish there permanently a garrison of mounted troops to patrol the lines of monuments and protect them from being defaced and carried off piece by piece.

Similar resolutions should be passed by every organization of war veterans and by every patriotic society. If Congress is not made to feel that the demand for this action is imperative General SICKLE will be permitted to sink out of sight.

At the prisoners in the Hospital, Va., jail escaped on Saturday night, a murderer was found to have been hanged to a beam in the cell block.

The two selected to call Waynesboro's new lockup are Joseph and Francis O'Boyle, of Derrytown, who claim to be veterans.

COMMISSIONS as specific police for the Western Maryland Railroad Company have been issued by the Maryland State Auditor to Jessie A. Ambrose, Wenzel, Henry M. Mowry, Wm. A. Wink, C. H. Shands, Thomas C. Buddle, and other employees of the road.

The large water tank on the G. & H. Railroad at Hunter's Run burst on Friday week.

A sum of Trade Dollars have made their appearance. The Trade Dollar has been withdrawn from circulation and is of little value in the silver.

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